





# Emancipation Proclamation

## Release

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# EMANCIPATION.

## President Lincoln's Proclamation.

The Slaves in Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina Declared to be Free.

## Parts of Louisiana and Virginia Excepted.

## The Negroes to be Received into the Armed Service of the United States.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 1, 1863.

*By the President of the United States of America—a Proclamation:*

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States containing among other things the following, to wit:

That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforth, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval authority thereof will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons or any of them in any effort they may make for their actual freedom. That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by Proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people therein, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by Members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated, shall in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and Government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the day of the

first above-mentioned order, and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

ARKANSAS, TEXAS, LOUISIANA—except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New-Orleans—MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA and VIRGINIA—except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And, by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do aver and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward, shall be FREE, and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free, to abstain from all violence unless in necessary self-defence, and I recommend to them that in all cases, when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And, upon this—sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution—upon military necessity—I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of Our Lord

(SEAL) one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seven.

(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President, Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

**EMANCIPATION.** The most careless visitor in any of the late slave States must have marked the wonderful unanimity, everywhere among the colored people, as to the certainty of their emancipation. The Chicago platform, the election of President Lincoln, the commencement of the contest by the South, the opening of its fire on Fort Sumter, and the whole course of military and political, public and private affairs, through the contest, have all left manifold and manifest traces upon the African race, with a certain harmony, force and precision that the world has never perhaps ever witnessed before. North and South, where we have lately been, and among all classes, field hands and house servants, the most neglected and the most favored, the oldest and the youngest, there was but one thought, one feeling, one look, and one expression, we are to be free, we have prayed for it all our days, and God is answering our prayers. Not was it necessary, that they should add, and we accept our Freedom as the work and boon of Heaven.

Insurrection, violence, vengeance, was not to be seen or apprehended anywhere. The plea that the President's Proclamation was a bid for a servile rising was an absurdity and a falsity beneath the notice and beyond the comprehension of any one at all conversant with the negro mind or character. Enslaved by the South through the complicity of the North, the children of Africa were content to see their emancipation evolved by the civil strife between the two, under the sway of the just and merciful maker of all mankind. To Him, who redeemed Israel, whose ear is ever open to the cry of the oppressed, and who hath made of one blood all nations of men, they looked and were lightened. Peace and not war, love and not hate, was in every heart. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth good-will to man, was on every lip.

But, we may fairly ask, were they alone to partake of this great redemption? No, we say a thousand times, no! Throughout the Southern States are millions of whites crushed and wretched by the contact and the curse of slavery. Wherever labor is mental and servile, there the laboring classes are made to suffer equally with the slaves themselves, and, so far as they belong to the tyrannizing race, more than even the slaves. Thus do Nature and the God of Nature avenge themselves. Long after the senseless outcry has ceased against the agitators of negro emancipation, it will be seen that the question of white emancipation was also as truly and as deeply involved in our momentous civil struggle. And if any one has any misgivings in relation to the merits or the issues of the struggle, let him picture to himself, if he can, all that white day-laborers have had to suffer in the slave States, and all that the day of freedom has in store for them. Never, we verily believe, since man was placed upon the earth to subdue it, has there been, for all the sons of toil, a brighter or a better day than the First of January, 1868. \*

**A COLONEL WHO IS AN EMANCIPATIONIST.** There is at least one emancipationist among the regular officers of the army, and he is Colonel Samuel Ross, of the Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers. A few days since Colonel Ross called his regiment together, and read the Emancipation Proclamation to them, and after that made a speech to them, which was received with great enthusiasm. I append a few extracts from his speech, as taken down on the spot by a friend who was present:

"What caused this rebellion, fellow-soldiers? It is a rebellion against the government of the United States by those who had sworn to uphold and sustain that government—a rebellion confined wholly to the slave states, inaugurated and sustained by those in the interest of slavery, by those who attempt to form a government of which the keystone of the arch is slavery! We had just passed a popular election—one as fair as any this nation or any other ever witnessed. No right of this rebellious section had been violated, and yet with impious hand and perjured breath they sought to overthrow this government, and to rear one in its stead based upon human bondage. As surely as the Lord liveth and reigneth forever, as surely as man dieth and returneth to dust, so surely this rebellion will never be crushed and peace be permanently restored so long as its cause shall live.

When we entered the army of the United States we swore before heaven 'that we would observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States.' That oath I intend to keep, and I ask each officer and soldier of the Twentieth Connecticut volunteers to perform his registered vow. \* \* \* \* I have no fears, soldiers, that you will not do your duty; I have no fears for the record you will make. It is our duty to obey the orders of the President, and I intend it shall be done where I command. If there are difficulties, I will overcome them; if obstacles present themselves, I will crush them."

Colonel Ross served twelve years in the Florida war, being in the Eighth Infantry under Worth. He also served gallantly in the Mexican war, being in all the principal battles. He is a captain in the old regular army. [Washington Cor. N. Y. Evening Post.

THE EMANCIPATION POLICY.

Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, to-day offered in the House a resolution approving and ratifying the President's recent Proclamation of Emancipation. Mr. Cox immediately made a motion to lay it on the table, which was lost by a vote of eighty-five to fifty, after which the resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

EMANCIPATION IN MARYLAND.

The bill introduced by Representative BURNHAM to-day, to aid Maryland in the abolishment of Slavery, appropriates \$10,000,000, and Senator WILLIAMS' bill appropriates \$2,000,000 for a similar purpose in West Virginia. The latter provides \$200,000 for the deportation and settlement of slaves.



## TWO DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

### ARRIVAL OF THE CHINA.

#### OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

#### The British Press on American Matters.

#### The Sumter, the Tuscarora and the Thistle.

#### Popular Emancipation Meetings in England.

#### The Imperial Reception on New-Year's Day.

### LATER FROM INDIA AND CHINA.

#### FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS.

The Royal mail steamer *China*, Capt. Anderson, which sailed from Liverpool on 2 A. M. on the 3d, and from Queenstown on the evening of the 4th inst., arrived here yesterday morning.

The *Kangaroo* reached Liverpool on the night of the 1st inst.

The *Arabia* arrived at Liverpool on the 3d.

The advices brought by the *China* are two days later.

Mr. SLIDELL has had another audience with the Emperor of the French, and has communicated to him some very important dispatches which he had recently received from Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The Liverpool *Journal of Commerce* states that the *Nashville*, which has been for some time beached in the Ogeechee River, has been sold for \$120,000 to a private company of merchants. She has been cut down and armed with one 100-pounder gun forward, and a smaller gun aft, and she is intended to fight her way, laden with cotton, through the blockading fleet.

The *Gibraltar Chronicle* of the 26th ult. says: "Some little stir was occasioned in the town the day before yesterday, and people were running with their glasses to the line wall, in consequence of a report that an exciting race was to come off between the late Confederate steamer *Sumter* and the Federal gunboat *Chippewa*, stationed at Algiers. The *Sumter* was last week sold by auction, and her new owners have been busy in obliterating, by means of change of name and nationality, of paint and new burning the traces of her former character. The Federal authorities, who protested against the sale, still persist in seeing only the wicked little *Sumter*, under every alias and disguise. The United States cruiser at Algiers watches her every movement with the utmost vigilance, and appears bent on accompanying her should she put to sea. On Wednesday the *Sumter* (or, as she is now called, the *Gibraltar*) made a trial trip up the bay to test her machinery. The first turn of her screw met with a responsive turn in the screw of the *Chippewa*. The two steamers directed their course to Europa Point, the *Sumter* keeping pretty close to the batteries of the rock, and the *Chippewa* further out. After going a little beyond the light-house, the *Sumter* turned on her heel, and quickly steamed back to anchorage; her friend returned to the line wall dropped away, one by one, without having experienced any very exciting sensation."

It was reported that the Confederate Government had appointed an agent in England to obtain a loan.

The London Times, availing to the rumors of Mr. SEAWARD's retirement, says:

"Whether true or not, the very fact that Washington and New-York believe the Lincoln Government to be in a state of dissolution, shows the depth of the dependency caused by the late defeat, and it also shows the increased strength of opinion adverse to the men who have taken the lead in the war."

The *Times* argues that events have proved the impracticability of Virginia, and says:

"The hopelessness of the task in which they have engaged seems now to be presenting itself to the Federals, but national pride is maintaining an obstinate though a despairing struggle with reason, in the minds of all but a few."

Mr. CARDWELL, Member of Parliament for Oxford, had been addressing his constituents. He expressed an ardent hope that the war in America would soon cease. He asserted that the British people, in regard to their own conduct, had been guided by the purest motives and the most righteous resolutions. They desired nothing but implicit obedience to international law, even when it told most severely against their own interests, and they have desired steadfastly to adhere to the principle of inflexible neutrality. He extolled the patient endurance of the distress in Lancashire, and, alluding to the contributions from America, said:

"I cannot help expressing the hope that these contributions are evidence that there is in that country a disposition to appreciate us, and that there are those who see the spirit by which England has been guided, and who will be as desirous as we have been here to maintain a growing and constant affection and good-will between both countries."

The *Times* has an editorial on the projected emigration of the negroes from America—and notwithstanding the political objection to their present reception into the British West Indies, as explained by EARL RUSSELL to Mr. ADAMS, it hopes the scheme has not suffered from any objections kept in reserve, but may be ultimately realized.

As the Princess LOTISKI, of Hesse, (Princess ALICE) was riding in a wagonette near Osborne, the postillion attempted to pass between two other vehicles, and the wagonette was overturned. The Princess and her companion were thrown out with considerable violence, and both were considerably shaken, but no serious injury was done.

The annual returns of the emigration from the port of Liverpool, for 1862, show an increase in steeage passengers of nearly ten thousand over the year 1861.

The Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund had finally resolved that £30,000, the unappropriated surplus of that Fund, should be applied for the relief of the distress in Lancashire.

It is rumored in Paris that the Emperor will not make a speech at the opening of the Chambers, in which case there can be no debate on the address.

The *Moniteur* publishes an Imperial decree, fixing the number of deputies to be elected in future at 283.

The *Moniteur* also announces some nominations to the Legion of Honor:

The *Patrie* says that during the reception on New-Year's day the Emperor expressed to Señor MUNO his regret at the absence of Gen. CONCHA, and he hoped that the relations between France and Spain would be re-established on the best footing. The *Patrie* believes the resignation of

Gen. CONCHA is definitive, and that he will not return to Paris.

The *Times'* Paris correspondent says the ceremonial of the Imperial Court is becoming more and more imposing, and the strictest regulations are enforced.

The Bourse on the 2d was quiet. Rentes closed at 69.55/70.20 for the new account.

KING VICTOR EMANUEL held a grand Court levee on the 1st of January. In a speech he entrusted Parliament to put trust in him, and said that when the pacification of the Southern Provinces was achieved the national cause would be fully triumphant. The spirit of the army was excellent and wholly Italian.

The summary of a dispatch from Count RECHBERG to the diplomatic agents of Austria is published. In it the Count states that the Greek question is intimately connected with the Eastern question, and he protests against the elevation of an Italian Prince to the throne of Greece.

The Prussian Ministry having asked the Councilmen of the metropolis to communicate to them the draft of their congratulatory New-Year's address to the King, they refused to comply, and at once sent in the address to be forwarded to His Majesty. Amongst other things, the address says:

"We feel confident that your Majesty will succeed in dispelling the grave apprehensions of the country. As the deplorable conduct between the Government and the Chambers—which endangers the basis of the Constitution, confuses the public, and lowers the foreign estimate of Prussia—remains unsettled in the new year, may the King enter on a course leading to peace and conciliation."

The Crown Prince and Princess had met with a carriage accident at Berlin, but the consequences were not serious.

It is stated that great agitation prevails in Servia, and that apprehensions were entertained of fresh demonstrations against the Porte and the Servian Government.

A Shanghai telegram of 23d November, received via Jubal, says alarming reports were current of the rebels being in the neighborhood of that city. An engagement had taken place at Poakong, in which the rebels had 2,000 killed. The Russians had offered their assistance for the capture of Nankin.

### AMERICA IN ENGLAND.

A Warm Winter—British Glorification of the South and Depreciation of the North—American Correspondents—Letters from the South—Stolen Piano-fortes and Imprisoned Heroes—Sympathy for the Poor Negro—The Logic of Facts—What Europe Waits to See—A Change Expected—Peace or War, and if War, What, Then?—The Man?—The Spirit of the North—Lukewarmness and Worse.

#### From Our Own Correspondent.

LONDON, Saturday, Jan. 2, 1863.

We are past New-Year's, with weather like April. There has not been a frost to stiffen the mud, and overcoats are a burden. Sharks upon the coast indicate a warm Winter, as if the Gulf-stream had changed its course a little, and was giving the British Islands an unusual supply of its tepid waters.

The British Press and public are delighted with the details of the battle of Fredericksburg, but not satisfied that LEE should have allowed BRAXIDE to recross the Rappahannock. They consider the invincibility of the Southern troops sufficiently demonstrated, and that four attempts to conquer Richmond, each a failure, show that it is a desperate undertaking. The papers and magazines are now filled with correspondence from the South, in which everything is painted *colour de rose*. Never was there such a command: as LEE, never a statesman like JEFF. DAVIS, never a hero like "Stonewall" JACKSON. A writer in *Blackwood* makes LEE the WELLINGTON, while JACKSON is the NAPOLEON of the Confederate Army—putting the two great European Generals on the same side.

With all this elaborate glorification of the South, the ability of her statesmen, the genius of her Generals, and the devotion of her army and people, everything in the North is systematically depreciated and blackened. The statesmen of the Union are denied the least sense or sagacity; their Generals, with one or two exceptions, are blockheads; their troops mercenaries, ready to desert upon the first occasion, and fighting only for pay and plunder, while corrupt officials are robbing a disunited, disaffected people.

And it is not British writers alone who are giving the English people such ideas of the American Government, and its civil and military officials. The most outrageous abuse of both come from the American correspondents of the British Press. As long as Fort Lafayette had terrors for

them, they pretended to Union sentiment, and refrained from gross abuse of the Government; but the moment the Democratic victory in New-York promised a restoration of *habeas corpus*, they began to use the liberty of the Press with a vengeance, and are now pouring out their vituperations, as if to make up for past restraints.

The President is denounced as incompetent, the Cabinet is charged with the ruin of the Union cause, and Generals and army are held up to the ridicule of Europe. It must be said, also, that extracts from New-York papers which give signs of returning to their early opposition to the war for the Union, go far to sustain the allegations of these correspondents.

Another influence is working very strongly against the Union in England and France. Letters are published here, purporting to come from New-Orleans, giving such accounts of Federal tyranny and rapacity as cannot fail to beget a strong sympathy for the South. Long lists of names of respectable men are published, many of whom are known in Europe, and some of whom I have known personally, who have been consigned by Gen. BURLIN to imprisonment at Ship Island, the forts at the mouth of the Mississippi, and Fort Pickens. Gen. BURLIN and his associates are said to be accumulating millions out of the plunder of the people of New-Orleans, and loud complaints are heard from French and British residents, as well as Americans.

Of course in all this there must be much exaggeration; but if a tenth part is true, it gives a color of justice to British sympathy. There is not a woman in England who will not be outraged when told that the piano-fortes and furniture of the ladies of New-Orleans are sent home to Massachusetts by Northern officers. It may be true or false, but the Press here is ready to publish and the people to believe it; and those who rejoiced at every Northern repulse, and every slaughter of Northern troops, from Bull Run to Fredericksburgh, weep over the woes of Southern heroines, deprived of their beloved piano-fortes by the ruthless Northern invaders.

We have still another object for British sympathy—the everlasting negro. We have the most doleful pictures of his unhappy situation, deprived of his Southern home and its comforts, and turned out to freeze and starve. Rejected from some of the free States, and scorned in all, what is the poor negro to do? It is a fact, that the leading Abolitionists in England are reproaching the National Government for trifling upon the negroes, the calamity of a sudden and unwonted freedom.

It is costing millions—tasking the resources of a great nation, to feed the idle operatives in Lancashire. How then, they say, can you provide for four millions of slaves who become free by the Proclamation of President LINCOLN on the 1st of January? The great mass of the Abolitionists of England would rather trust the negroes to their masters, than have them risk the chance—or, rather, meet what they consider the certain miseries—of a forced and immediate emancipation. The Abolition policy of the Government is utterly failed, so far as I have been able to learn, of finding any sympathy on this side of the Atlantic.

The Emperor has allowed New-Year's to pass, and said no word on the affairs of America. He spoke hopefully of peace in Europe. The Pope also received New-Year's calls, and was hopefully prophetic to his visitors. He believes that Piedmont will be just to Rome. VICTOR EMANUEL is equally hopeful. We have not had any New-Year's address from GARIBALDI, but he is getting well of his wound. We must wait now for the meeting of Parliament.

It is evident enough, however, that the pressure for recognition increases daily. Were Parliament in session it would be pressed at once. "Why should we recognize a revolution in Greece, and not in America?" is asked. "We allow two or three millions of Greeks to send off one King and get another if they can; why should not eight millions of Americans have as good a right to

change their Government?" But, as I have written you long since and often, *success* is that which carries the strongest weight. Sympathy with suffering is all very well; but it is sympathy with power which does the work. A victory like that at Fredericksburgh is worth more to the South than a thousand logical arguments. The facts which Governments care for are accomplished facts. Take Richmond, annihilate the Southern armies, drive DAVIS, LEE, JOHNSON and JACKSON into exile, or take them prisoners, occupy the Southern territory, and open the Southern ports to commerce, and you may make the South a Poland, a Hungary, an Ireland, or a Botany Bay, if it please you, and no Power in Europe will interfere with you or protest against the operation.

And now, as I write, Europe waits to see if you still propose to do this in the next sixty or ninety days, or in whatever time you may think necessary. England waits to learn what the great State of New-York, by the mouth of her new Governor and Legislature, will say to Mr. LINCOLN and his constitutional advisers—waits to see what all the great States of the North will say of the waste, slaughter and destruction of their hundreds of thousands of men, and the waste and plunder of their thousands of millions of dollars, yet to come from the hard sines of labor. It is hoped that some change must come—a change in the Government, in policy, in something.

Once more, it seems to the distant spectator of this great and terrible drama, the Northern people are called upon to decide the question of their fate. Disguise it as you may, the real question now, at the end of two years, is—*peace or war?* The North must soon say one or the other. It must either be peace on such terms as the South will accept, in Convention or otherwise, or it must be war, and war in earnest, to the last dollar and the last man.

If war, then there must be a Government that can make war. There must be National leaders, the equals, at least, of those who guide the destinies of the South. Divided councils, mercenary soldiering, plundering contractors and corrupt financiers, must all be done away with. Martial law, an impartial and inexorable conscription in every State, able Generals, thorough discipline, a Commander-in-Chief with plenary powers, and the genius of a NAPOLEON or a NAPOLEON; these must be had if you decide for war. Short of these will be failure, disgrace, destruction. The demands of the South will rise with every victory, while the National power must lessen with every defeat. If the enormous power of twenty millions of the Free States, commanding the military resources of the world, is to be frittered away on stupid or fruitless expeditions, wasted on barren victories, or engulfed in disasters, there is nothing but ruin and humiliation in the future.

But what are we—what is Europe to think of the men who cling to power while they are ruining their country by their incompetency? It is said that Gen. BURNSIDE tendered his resignation. He probably obeyed orders; but one would think that the whole Government, civil and military, would tender its resignation also. When a man cannot do what is required of him, the next best thing for him to do is to step aside and allow a better man to take his place.

But where is the man? SCOTT and WOOL failed from age and infirmity. McDOWELL, MCCLELLAN, HALLER, POPE and BURNSIDE have failed. FREMONT has failed whenever he has been tried. HENTZLEYMAN, ROSECRANS and SIGEL may be good soldiers, but want the grasp of great commanders. The man who is to end this war, if it is to be carried to the termination on which the North resolved two years ago, has yet to be found, and may now be sitting at an editor's desk, pleading cases at the bar, or, more probably, serving his time and learning his trade as a subaltern officer. He may be loafing about New-York, like NAPOLEON in Paris before the siege of Toulon, or serving in the ranks, like some of NAPOLEON'S Marshals.

But before such a leader can be found, the whole spirit of the North must change. It is not in earnest, and it never has been. A people in earnest never required such pay or such bounties as were necessary to call out Northern troops. The public opinion of the South drove every man who respected or feared it into the army. Gen. LEE'S youngest son, a mere boy, served as a private soldier at the battle of Antietam, and rode a horse of the only remaining cannon of a battery which his father ordered into the thickest of the fight. How do you think twenty or thirty thousand deserters would fare in Charleston or Mobile? I shall have little faith in the Union until I see evidence of a different spirit in its defenders.

And there is worse than mere lukewarmness. Unless the correspondents of English papers, and others writing from New-York, be desperately, there is a growing feeling in the Democratic Party of a desire to restore the Union by joining the South, and accepting JEFF. DAVIS for President, and vice ABRAHAM LINCOLN, laid on the shelf. We heard of such a proposal for New-York City before the attack on Fort Sumter. It is alleged that the reason why Pennsylvania has not been pillaged was that it was known that there was a large party in that State favorable to Southern annexation. It is said here that prominent politicians in New-York are in constant intercourse with Richmond, and are ready, at the earliest opportunity, to engineer a peace and reunion. Western men swear that, one way or the other, the whole Mississippi Valley must go together.

We wait for the new programme, because there must be a new one. The old one is played out, and we wonder what will be the new, so we wait, ears, eyes and mouths open, like a sixpenny London gallery at a Christmas pantomime, wait-

ing for the transformations that may come at any moment. There must be peace or victory. There must be, at all cost, some earnestness somewhere and some power to do. The great National suicide has gone far enough. Europe says America is mad. She will say idiotic as well if this goes on much longer.

MONADNOCK.



# EMANCIPATION MEETINGS IN ENG- LAND.

## THE WORKINGMEN OF MANCHESTER.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 31, which had been called by a Committee of workingmen, to enable the working classes of Manchester and Salford to express their sympathy with the cause of union in America, and to pass resolutions in support of the emancipation policy of President LINCOLN. The proceedings commenced shortly after 7 o'clock, and lasted till near 11, the enthusiasm being very marked throughout, and the sentiments of the different speakers were loudly cheered. Letters were received from several persons, apologizing to be absent. Among the rest, Mr. J. STRAUBER, who wrote to the secretary as follows:

BRACEDALE PARK, Dec. 24, 1862.

DEAR SIR:—I thank you very sincerely for your two letters, and for the important and most gratifying information which they contain. Hardly anything could do more good at present than such a demonstration from the suffering operatives of Lancashire, while there is in the United States in the state of mind which prompts it, a moral greatness which is at once a just rebuke to the mean feeling of so great a portion of the public, and a source of unqualified happiness to those whose hopes and fears for the great interests of humanity are, as mine are, inseparably bound up in the moral and intellectual prospects of the working classes.

Mr. HUGH MASON, of Ashton, wrote:

"I have no doubt whatever that the rebellion was planned, and has to this moment been conducted, for the sole object of perpetuating slavery, and my prayer is that it will fail of its diabolical purpose. I hope your meeting will be the first of many similar acts throughout our free country."

The speakers were, with the exception of Mr. BAXLEY, M. P., President of the Cotton Supply Association, and ARNOLD, the fugitives from slavery from the class of mill hands, and spoke with earnestness and warm sympathy of the cause of the Union. The resolutions and address were voted with perfect unanimity.

The address, as adopted, closed as follows:

Heartily do we congratulate you and your country on this humane and righteous course. We assume that you cannot now stop short of a complete uprooting of slavery. It would not become us to dictate any details, but there are broad principles of humanity which must guide you. If complete emancipation in some States be deferred, though only to a pre-determined day, still, in the interval, human beings should not be counted chattels. Women must have rights of chastity and of maternity; men the rights of husbands; masters the liberty of manumission. Justice demands for the black, no less than for the white, the protection of law, that his voice be heard in your courts. Nor must any such abomination be tolerated as slave-breeding States and a slave market, if you are to earn the high reward of all your sacrifices in the approval of the universal brotherhood and of the Divine Father. It is for your free country to decide whether anything but immediate and total emancipation can secure the most indispensable rights of humanity against the inveterate wickedness of local laws and local executives. We implore you, for your own honor and welfare, not to faint in your Providential mission. While your enthusiasm is aflame and the tide of events runs high, let the work be finished effectually. Leave no root of bitterness to spring up and work fresh misery to your children. It is a mighty task, indeed, to reorganize the industry not only of four millions of the colored race but of five millions of whites. Nevertheless, the vast progress you have made in the short space of twenty months fills us with hope that every stain on your freedom will shortly be removed, and that the erasure of that foul blot upon civilization and Christianity—chattel slavery—during your Presidency, will cause the name of ABRAHAM LINCOLN to be honored and revered by posterity. We are certain that such a glorious consummation will cement Great Britain to the United States in close and enduring regards. Our interests, moreover, are identified with yours. We are truly one people, though locally separate. And if you have any ill-wishers here, be assured they are chiefly those who oppose liberty at home, and that they will be powerless to stir up quarrels between us from the very day in which your country becomes, undeniably and without exception, the home of the free. Accept our high admiration of your firmness in upholding the proclamation of freedom.

## POPULAR MEETING IN LONDON ON THE NIGHT OF DEC. 31.

A public meeting was held at the Cowper-street Institute, City-road, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the emancipation of the slaves in America. Mr. R. MOORE in the Chair. The room was quite crowded.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said they were met on the eve of the proclamation coming into effect for the emancipation of the slaves in America—cheers—and the object for which they had assembled was to express their sympathy, as workingmen, with this great event—[hears]—for, whatever might be said to mislead the public mind and distort the question, the fearful contest now taking place in America was produced by slavery. [Hear.] That slavery was likely to produce this contest had been long foreseen by American statesmen, and more particularly by JEFFERSON. That contest had now come, and the question to be decided was whether four millions of black men should be obliged to work for their masters without their consent. Nor was this all; for if the Southern States establish themselves as an independent power their first care would be to extend slavery and to increase their property in their

fellow men. All their policy while members of the American Union was directed to the augmentation of slave territory, and it is not likely they would, when left to themselves, abandon that policy. [Hear.] But he hoped that from to-morrow that policy was doomed, and that it would be an honor and a relief to them that they were at least sympathizers in the great cause of negro emancipation. [Cheers.]

The orator of the evening was REV. NEWMAN HALL, whose earnest advocacy of the American cause entitled him to the regard of all our countrymen. At the close of his address, the following resolution and address were voted without opposition:

## RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That this great meeting of English workingmen, assembled on the last night of the year 1862, declares its hearty admiration of the noble efforts made by the Government and people of the United States, not only to free themselves from the guilt of complicity with slavery, but also to promote the liberation of the enslaved; and basing the dawn of the new year as the beginning of an epoch of universal freedom upon the Western Continent, and of closer friendship between the people of England and of America.

## ADDRESS.

To His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States:

SIR: We who offer to you this address are Englishmen and workingmen. We prize as our dearest inheritance, bought for us by the blood of our fathers, the liberty we enjoy—the liberty of free labor upon a free soil. We have, therefore, been accustomed to regard with veneration and gratitude the founders of the great Republic in which the liberties of the Anglo-Saxon race have been widened beyond all the precedents of the Old World, and in which there was nothing to condemn or to lament but the slavery and degradation of men guilty only of a colored skin or an African parentage. We have looked with admiration and sympathy upon the brave, generous and unflinching efforts of a large party in the Northern States to deliver the Union from this curse and shame. We rejoiced, Sir, in your election to the Presidency, as a splendid proof that the principles of universal freedom and equality were rising to the ascendancy. We regarded with abhorrence the conspiracy and rebellion by which it was sought at once to overthrow the supremacy of a Government based upon the most popular suffrage in the world, and to perpetuate the hateful inequalities of race.

We have ever heard with indignation the slander that ascribes to England sympathy with a rebellion of slaveholders, and all proposals to recognize in friendship a Confederacy that boasts of slavery as its corner-stone. We have watched, with the warmest interest, the steady advance of your policy along the path of emancipation; and on the eve of the day on which your proclamation of freedom takes effect, we pray God to strengthen your hands, to confirm your noble purpose, and to hasten the restoration of that lawful authority which engages, in peace or war, by compensation or by force of arms, to realize the glorious principle on which your Constitution is founded—the brotherhood, freedom, and equality of all men.

NY Times

Jan 27, 1863

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## IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

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### Passage of the Finance Bill Through the House.

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The Report of the Ways and Means  
Committee Sustained.

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### A Bill to Create a National Guard of the United States.

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### The Emancipation Proclamation Issued as a General Order

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OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DISPATCHES  
Washington, Monday, Jan. 26.

#### THE GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

The strength of the Finance bill, in its passage to-day through the House, surprised even its most sanguine friends, and is regarded as an indication of its eventual success in the Senate.

#### THE PROCLAMATION.

The President's Emancipation Proclamation was, yesterday, issued as General Orders No. 1, and dated Jan. 2, 1863.

**The Question of Emancipation.**

The following circular has been issued in Manchester :

EMANCIPATION SOCIETY, MANCHESTER BRANCH,

Monday, Jan. 5, 1863.

DEAR SIR: We respectfully invite your co-operation in the formation of a Branch Emancipation Society in this city, to second the efforts of the Association in London, whose address we inclose you.

The Committee of that Society have offered to send a deputation to address public meetings throughout the manufacturing districts, provided the local arrangements for such meetings be undertaken by a branch organization, such as the one to which we ask your adhesion.

Recent events have unmistakably demonstrated that, amongst working men especially, true views on the American question generally prevail, and that there is in Lancashire a much stronger sympathy for the Anti-Slavery Administration of the North than was anticipated.

The visit of a deputation from the London Emancipation Society would not only give a valuable opportunity for the expression of those opinions, but would cause the important issue of Freedom vs. Slavery, involved in the American war, to be better understood.

At the close of the labors of the London Deputation it is proposed to hold an influential meeting in Manchester, at which some of the leading Liberal members of Parliament and representative politicians of Lancashire are expected to attend.

As it is of importance that the work in hand should be commenced at once, we venture to hope for an early and favorable reply. We are, dear Sir, yours very truly,

(Signed)

THOMAS B. POTTER, Chairman.  
ED. OWEN GREENING, Hon. Sec.

#### Deputation to the American Minister.

A deputation from the Executive Committee of the Emancipation Society waited on His Excellency, the American Minister, at the embassy in Portland place, for the purpose of presenting him with a resolution, agreed upon at a special meeting of the committee, approving of President Lincoln's Proclamation.

Mr. EVANS introduced the deputation after which Mr. CHESBORN read the resolution.

Mr. TAYLOR, M. P., in expressing the pleasure he felt at the course the American Government had lately taken in regard to Slavery, said he believed the Proclamation would not only tend to the entire abolition of Slavery, and the continuance of the Union, but that it would greatly conduce to a lasting peace between England and America.

Hon. and Rev. BARTER NOZT said he cordially approved of Mr. Lincoln's policy. He had observed Mr. Lincoln's honest intention to maintain the Constitution on the one hand, and to do what the Constitution allowed on the other for the liberation of the slave. The President had used the war power which had been put into his hands, and he (Mr. Nozt) hoped that, under God's blessing, it might be the means of bringing the rebellion to a close. In abstaining from taking the same course in the United States, he recognized the President's submission to the Constitution. But he (Mr. Nozt) hoped and trusted the loyal States would accept the liberal offer which the Government had made, and that ere long America would be free from the stain of Slavery. (Applause.)

Rev. NEWMAN HALL said the opinion of this country on the American struggle had been greatly misrepresented. The leading newspapers, which were supposed to represent public opinion, really did not represent the feelings of the masses. He would just give one illustration of the inconsistency of those who misrepresented public opinion. In the Times of the day before there had been a leading article in the first paragraph of which the President had been condemned on the high ground of Philanthropy, for not issuing the proclamation, while in the next paragraph he had been condemned for what he had done, on the ground that he had invaded the Constitution. Now, when the paragraph in a leading journal contradicted another, he did not think there was much danger that the great body of the people would fall into error on the question. (Hear.)

Mr. JACOB BATAUR concurred in all that had been said.

Mr. ADAMS then read in the following terms: Gentlemen: I receive this expression of the sentiments of so respectable body with great pleasure and great satisfaction. I need not say how encouraging such manifestations will be to those persons in my country represented by the President of the United States, who have been driven into the necessity of maintaining such a painful struggle has been carried on by them in America, in devotion to great principles of public law and public order. I am very much encouraged by the circumstance that there is growing here, and in Europe generally, a better conception than has heretofore prevailed of the principle involved in the struggle. The election of Mr. LINCOLN was a great declaration of the majority of the people of the United States in favor of the principle of human freedom. The significance of it was that the persons then elected to places of responsibility should be so far imbued with that principle as that, while they carried on the Government in the spirit of freedom, they should at the same time avoid the necessity of a struggle of physical force. It was the conviction on the part of the opponents of that policy that the result would be as certain by that process, though perhaps much slower, that drove him into the desperate measure of stopping it at the threshold by violence. The consequence was that the Government was attacked at its very foundations. The struggle to preserve it has been going on from that time to this. If, therefore, there has been what might otherwise be thought extraordinary haste and precipitate energy in any of the measures which have been taken by the Government, it has not been owing so much to any will of their own as to the fact that the violence of the resistance has caused the necessity for them. I think the idea which it is desirable to present distinctly is this—that the struggle has been one of self-defence against the aggressive violence which was threatening destruction to the whole edifice of Government as it stood, for the reason that it was so favorable to freedom. And with regard to the Proclamation, the desire on the part of the President of the United States has been, as I conscientiously believe, not to hasten the measure of emancipation any faster than the popular sentiment in the Slave States would demand, nor any faster than the emergency would dictate—or, in other words, simply so to act as to prevent those very convulsions which war is too apt to precipitate. Therefore, in all matters immediately to the maintenance of his policy, regard has been steadily had to the possible avoidance of those dangers of servile war which necessarily must have been loomed

seen by all thoughtful persons during the contest. Therefore, whilst always keeping in view the ultimate consequences of this most remarkable, and, I may say, unprecedented struggle, I trust that the great result which we all hope to arrive at will be eventually reached—not, perhaps, immediately, not, perhaps, to-day, or to-morrow, or the next day, but ultimately, by a steady perseverance in one course, which may force the consent of all parties, and yet avert the fearful consequences which we might naturally apprehend. I am extremely gratified in the assurances which have been given by several gentlemen with respect to the state of popular feeling in England on this subject. I have myself had occasion to notice the fact that, although some of the exponents of the public sentiment have appeared to be at times exceedingly harsh upon the United States, yet that, when opportunity offered for an appeal to the people themselves, the sentiment has uniformly responded to the policy which the United States' Government have enunciated. I am, therefore, encouraged to hope that the clouds which have heretofore gathered, and at times somewhat portentously, over the amicable relations of the two countries have now more and more the appearance of vanishing from the sky. I feel sanguine that the expression of sympathy from here, which I have been lately the medium of repeatedly communicating to my countrymen, will have the effect of clearing away many impressions that may have been received by reading the attacks of hostile journals, and taking them too much as the true expression of the sentiment of the people. I think, by understanding distinctly—which they will now have the opportunity of doing—that the policy of Great Britain is not retrograde on the subject of Slavery, wherever it may yet exist, and that it is true to the former pledges it so nobly gave to the world of its devotion to the principles of human freedom—the growing conviction of that fact will have the effect in America of restoring those amicable relations and reviving those warm sentiments which ought to be entertained between the two kindred peoples at all times. Gentlemen, I shall not longer detain you. I will just say that I shall have pleasure in communicating to my Government a knowledge of the sentiments which have been expressed here by you to-day.

The deputation then thanked his Excellency for the courtesy with which he had received them, and withdrew.

2/2/63



# *Times* 1862 The Anti-Slavery Demonstrations.

Meetings, lectures, &c., in favor of President Lincoln's emancipation policy, were of daily occurrence in various parts of England, and an imposing demonstration was expected at the Amphitheatre at Liverpool, the day the *Hibernian* sailed. The resolutions and addresses to President Lincoln, which are to be proposed, emphatically approve of his Anti-Slavery policy. A crowded meeting on the subject was held at St. James Hall, London, on the 18th. The speakers indulged in bitter invectives against the Lord Mayor and Mr. Mason, for the late affair at the Mansion House banquet, and a resolution condemning the Lord Mayor was unanimously carried.

## A COMPLAINT FROM THE LONDON TIMES.

It is a matter of very serious import that the grand old cause of the Anti-Slave-trade and Anti-Slavery movement should be thought to have *degenerated into a mere cat's-paw to Mr. Steward*, and that one of the most glorious bands of disinterested philanthropists which this or any other country has produced, should be thought to have sunk into a few dupes of President LINCOLN, *advocating a measure which is not freedom to the blacks, but is, as far as possible, massacre to the women and children of the whites.* We ask, therefore, publicly, whether there is the least truth in the suggestion that these people have ever received the authority of Lord BROUGHAM, or the Bishop of Oxford, or Sir J. BUXTON, or any other man of ancient connection with this question, to associate the name of BROUGHAM, WILBERFORCE, or BUXTON with their present doings. If they have, let us have the proofs; if they have not, it is only honest to the public to let it be known that those Northern political demonstrations are but *chickoo eggs, fraudulently laid in the old nest, but utterly repudiated by the old birds.* In a case like this the *suppression veri* is scarcely a step removed from the *suggestio falsi*. If they have any letters at all from these men, who are the natural guardians of the cause of the slave, those letters ought to be produced. Perhaps we can jog the memories of these worthies as to some of the protests they have conveniently suppressed. Was there no letter from Lord BROUGHAM upon the subject of the address to Mr. LINCOLN? Did not that venerable patriarch of the cause of negro liberty telegraph to beseech the persons who have now usurped the places of the real friends of liberty *not to dishonor the cause by carrying that document up to Mr. Adams?* Did he not even ask for a little space of delay in order that time might be given for further reflection; and was not the presentation still persisted in, and rather hurried, to avoid the possibility of a damaging public protest, with the signature of "HENRY PASCOHAM" attached to it? If these gentlemen, who take upon themselves to represent the old Anti-Slavery agitation, have such a letter as this, it would have been only honest in them to publish it; if they have not such a letter, we have been very much misinformed.

Perhaps the very small dogs who have taken possession of the old lions' den, and are making such vain efforts to imitate the roar of the old occupants, will tell us also whether they have taken any means to obtain information as to whether the sons of WILBERFORCE and of BUXTON, who have all been brought up in the teaching of their fathers, now share the opinions of the present Emancipation Society as to the Proclamation of Mr. LINCOLN. Without pretending to any very exclusive information as to the opinions of the WILBERFORCES and BUXTONS, we are strongly inclined to believe that there is not one of them who would not repudiate the doings of these people as an indignity to the memory of their fathers. Perhaps they will tell us what the Bishop of Oxford may have said on the matter. When they have told the public the whole truth as to their relations with the old apostles of Anti-Slavery, we will then hold further controversy with them, but, at present, we utterly refuse to recognize them as a respectable agitation.

"Upon this act," said Mr. Lincoln, "sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God." That the gracious favor of Almighty God, in a marvelous manner, and that judgment pronounced in strains of hosannah. For while "the deep damnation of his taking off" powerfully affected the imagination and shocked the sensibilities of all Christendom, it never could have elicited such expressions of grief, exultation, and love, except that he had it nothing to the cause of universal freedom. Thus, this alone it was that sent an electric thrill through the world, drew millions of weeping mourners around his bier as with imposing solemnities it passed from the National Capital through luminous cities and towns to distant hill-tops, and will give him historic renown. From the hour he put his signature to that proclamation he no longer stumbled in the dark, but became animated by the conviction that he was to be an instrument in the hand of God to bring about great and glorious ends—to feel strong in his purpose to make no compromise with the dark spirit of slavery. His own solemnly repeated pledge is the sublimest inscription that can be chiseled upon his monument or affixed to his statue: "I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it an Executive duty to re-enslave such persons, another, not I, must be the instrument to perform it." His last official utterance, too, on this subject, in his grandly phenomenal inaugural address on the 4th of March last is worthy to be written in starry letters upon the sky: "If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the Providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives war due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern there is any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Easily do we hope, fervently do we pray that the mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsmen in 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword—as was said 3,300 years ago, so it still must be said that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

Yes, dollar for dollar, blood for blood, torture for torture, life for life, have been retributively exacted in full.

We loved for peace: our eyes survey  
The blood-red dawn of Freedom's day;  
We prayed for love to loose the chains;  
We shun by battle's aid in twain:

July 1865

1865

EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION.—Gov. Andrew has ordered the celebration, on Monday next, of the anniversary of President Lincoln's proclamation of emancipation by firing national salutes at Boston, Plymouth, Dorchester Heights, Bunker Hill, Concord, Lexington, and Salem, and the display of the national flag. The celebration is also intended in honor of the adoption of the anti slavery amendment to the constitution.

Worcester 12-28-65  
The "COVENANT WITH DEATH" ANNULLED.

The following are the terse comments which Mr. Garrison in the last Liberator appends to the proclamation announcing the adoption of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery throughout the United States:

The old "covenant with death" is annulled; and the agreement with hell no longer stands. Hail, redeemed, regenerated America! Hail, North and South, East and West! Hail, the cause of peace, of liberty, of righteousness, thus mightily strengthened and signally glorified! Hail, the Present, with its transcendent claims, its new ideas, its imperative obligations, its sublime opportunities! Hail, the Future, with its pregnant hopes, its glorious promises, its illimitable powers of expansion and development! Hail, ye ransomed millions, no more to be chained, scourged, mutilated, bought and sold in the market, robbed of all rights, hunted as partridges upon the mountains in your flight to obtain deliverance from the house of bondage, branded and scorned as a connecting link between the human race and the brute creation! Hail, all nations, tribes, kindreds and peoples, "made of one blood," interested in a common redemption, heirs of the same immortal destiny! Hail, angels in glory, and spirits of the just made perfect, and tune your harps anew, singing, 'Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints! Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.'

### Telegraphing a Hymn

"General James H. Wilson, who is to be one of the Commissioners to represent the United States at the coronation of King Edward," remarked a United States Senator recently, "enjoys a very extended personal acquaintance. For many years he has been in much demand as a banquet speaker, and his friends delight to recall his enlivening talks. One of his stories, which he credits to his old associate, Dana, concerns a former well-known Washington newspaper correspondent.

"On the night that Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation all the correspondents in Washington were alert to get this great piece of news. At that time telegraph tolls were high and journals had not acquired the habit of expending fortunes to obtain news. Only matters of the gravest importance were wired at any length.

"To one of the correspondents, whom the President trusted and whose ability he recognized, the nature of the Proclamation was outlined. Lincoln could not actually show it to the correspondent before it was presented to Congress, but, under certain restrictions, he told him the substance of what the famous document contained. In great excitement the correspondent rushed to the telegraph office, and forgetting all about the strict admonition from his New York office to keep down telegraph bills, began his dispatch by quoting the old hymn:

"We are living, we are dwelling,  
In a grand and awful time;  
In an age of ages telling  
To be living is sublime."

"Then followed the world-stirring news. In a few days the jubilant newspaper man, according to the story told by Dana to General Wilson, received from the managing editor of his paper the following letter:

"— Office, New York.

"My dear Mr. —: We were very much pleased to get your news dispatch of recent date concerning the President's Proclamation of Emancipation, but inasmuch as words wired from Washington to New York cost considerable money we suggest that hereafter when you have occasion to quote a hymn you telegraph us simply the page and number; we have a hymn-book in the office."

5-14-1902



### The Song of the Freedmen

Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, speaking at a Lincoln celebration in Boston in 1902, told of the circumstances under which he first heard the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation:

"I shall always associate President Lincoln—not with any personal intercourse, for I never saw him—with his greatest work, the Proclamation of Emancipation, and that with the scene where I heard it read with an accompaniment so impressive that I never can forget it. In South Carolina, under General Saxton, vast multitudes of freedmen, as they were then called, had been collected upon the Sea Islands. They had been organized into platoons and a regiment of soldiers formed from the able-bodied men. And the very day, January 1, 1863, when the proclamation was to take effect, a great barbecue was to be held near my camp, for I commanded the regiment, and the proclamation of emancipation was to be read to those people.

"The meaning of a barbecue was that I was awaked in the morning by my orderly, who came with a message from somebody to inquire how many oxen I would have roasted for dinner. My previous experiences in life had been ordering a pound or two

of beefsteak, but that time when he asked me how many cattle, I turned sleepily over and said, 'Ten.' We had perhaps 3,000 or 4,000 people, nearly all of whom had been legal slaves.

"They came together to hear the proclamation read. It was read most impressively by William Brisbane, a former slaveholder of those islands, who had set his slaves at liberty before the war. He read it amid breathless attention, and after he had read it I was going to make some remarks. There was a moment's pause while I went up the platform, and suddenly a cracked voice of an old Negro began to sing, 'My Country, 'tis of Thee.' Two other old Negroes joined in with their cracked voices, and presently those thousands of slaves were singing it, making my poor words insignificant and superfluous. What became of my little speech afterward I do not know. I hope it was never given; but when I think of Lincoln I shall think of that throng of enthusiastic human beings, not one of whom had ever had a country before, and shall ask myself what other American ever had a song to commemorate him so noble as that song was."

3/4/07

Channing A. Alvord

## Lincoln In a Historic Minute

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In "Reminiscences of a Wartime Statesman and Diplomat" Frederick W. Seward, son of Lincoln's secretary of state, wrote: 1917

"Thursday, Jan. 1, 1863, was marked by an event that will always be memorable in history. Slaves in all the regions remaining in rebellion were to be on that day declared entitled to freedom. The emancipation proclamation had been duly prepared at the state department and was ready for President Lincoln's signature.

"At noon, accompanying my father, I carried the broad parchment in a large portfolio under my arm. We, threading our way through the throng in the vicinity of the White House, went upstairs to the president's room, where Mr. Lincoln speedily joined us. The broad sheet was spread open before him on the cabinet table. Mr. Lincoln dipped his pen in the ink and then, holding it a moment above the sheet, seemed to hesitate. Looking around, he said:

"I never in my life felt more certain that I was doing right than I do in signing this paper. But I have been receiving calls and shaking hands since 9 o'clock this morning till my arm is stiff and numb. Now, this signature is one that will be closely examined, and if they find my hand trembled they will say, 'He had some compunctions.' But anyway it is going to be done."

"So saying he slowly and carefully wrote his name at the bottom of the proclamation. The signature proved to be unusually clear, bold and firm even for him, and a laugh followed at his apprehension. My father after appending his own name and causing the great seal to be affixed had the important document placed among the archives. Copies were at once given to the press."

# THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

By Marion F. Lansing

IT WAS New Year's Day at the White House, the sad and discouraging New Year's Day of 1863. For a year and a half the country had been engaged in Civil War. To the duties of the Presidency were added for Abraham Lincoln responsibilities as commander-in-chief of the Union army.

which was to free the slaves, writing and re-writing it with his own hand, on the afternoon and evening of December 31 and the morning of January 1. The draft was not finished when he was summoned at eleven o'clock to the Blue Room. There he stood for hours greeting with his customary cordiality and

persons who happened to be in or about the White House one of the most far-reaching and important "Edicts of Freedom" in history. It was carried to the Department of State, stamped with the great seal of the government, and proclaimed to the world.

The Emancipation Proclamation was a military decree, issued by President Lincoln by virtue of the power vested in him "as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion . . . and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion."

Long and ardently as he personally had opposed human slavery, President Lincoln would not have felt that he had the right to free thousands upon thousands of his fellow beings by a stroke of the pen. That would be to take advantage of his high position to carry out his personal views and wishes. But slavery had become a national issue. It was a cause of disunion. "Without slavery," he had said in his annual message to Congress a month earlier, "the rebellion could never have existed; without slavery it could not continue."

Congress had not accepted his recommendation for gradual emancipation. They had not adopted his argument when he said that, "in giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free. . . . We nobly save, or meanly lose, the last, best hope of earth."

AS A military man he knew the importance of adding a hundred thousand possible soldiers to the Union army. That had become in his judgment a military necessity which he as Commander-in-Chief of the army had a right to take. The life of the nation was at stake. In June he had declared, "I expect to maintain this contest until successful, or till I die, or am conquered, or my term expires, or Congress or the country forsakes me." This act was in the line of his Presidential duty as he saw it. It was also in the line of his own faith. Human slavery, the ownership and control of one man by another for any reason whatsoever, was indefensible. The world was coming to this view. The day of slavery was past. "Can you not see the signs of the times?" he said.

Abraham Lincoln saw clearly. He knew that this nation could not exist "half slave and half free." Freedom was the law of life. To it the nation and the world must come. By the simple act of signing his name as President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, on this New Year's afternoon, he could abolish slavery forever in this land. The influence of such an act would not be limited to any land or time. From that day human slavery was doomed. Mankind had taken another step on the road to freedom.

"God works for all. Ye cannot hem the hope of being free With parallels of latitude, with mountain range or sea.

Put golden padlocks on Truth's lips, be callous as ye will, From soul to soul, o'er all the world, leaps one electric thrill."

James Russell Lowell  
The Crossings 11-27-30



Illustration by Henry Pitts

Lincoln went back to his office, made the final corrections, and signed the edict

The defeats suffered in the summer of 1862 had not been followed by lasting victories in the autumn. The tall, gaunt, patient man in the White House was carrying heavier burdens than any President had ever been called upon to bear. To-day he was to issue, on his personal responsibility, an edict of great national and military importance.

Yet the routine of the White House must continue. It was the custom for the President of the United States to hold on New Year's Day an official, public reception. Mr. Lincoln worked on the Emancipation Proclamation

kindliness the guests of the day. It was a brilliant gathering of diplomats from other countries, officials of the government, and distinguished citizens who made up the long line that filed past the President. There was no hint of preoccupation in his manner. He gave himself to these guests as simply and cordially as if that were the whole business of his day.

Then, with his right hand so weary that he could hardly hold his pen, he went back to his office, made the final corrections, and signed in the presence of less than a dozen







